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State of Columbia

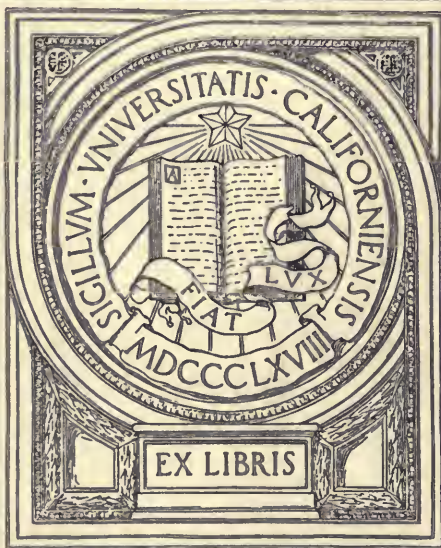
By
James E. Rogers

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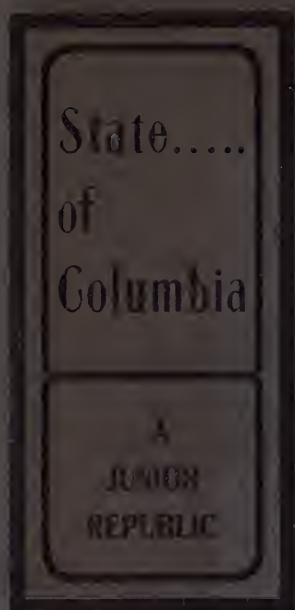


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STATE OF COLUMBIA

A JUNIOR REPUBLIC



—BY—

JAMES E. ROGERS

MCMIII

THE STATE OF COLUMBIA
A JUNIOR REPUBLIC
BY JAMES E. ROGERS
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1903

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STATE OF COLUMBIA

A JUNIOR REPUBLIC

The Columbia Park Boys' Club of San Francisco, situated at 318 Seventh Street, is an educational institution, well known by its successful experiment among boys of the immediate crowded neighborhood.

The members enjoy the privilege of a large, splendid club-house, artistically decorated and furnished with all necessary material and paraphernalia essential to the carrying on of the club work. Here the boys appreciate the use of a splendid library, play-room, meeting-room, large assembly or lecture-room, gymnasium, military armory, work-rooms, where they are taught different occupations, and a printing office. Chorus, band, athletics, outings, and entertainments are a few of its many auxiliary energies. This club puts particular stress on the value of the human unit; its organization, thought, and effort are directed towards giving the fullest impetus to the faculties and powers within the boy himself. While endeavoring to supply him with healthful and elevating influences, it also makes it a main thought to draw out in a boy's growth and development, all his abilities and talents, that he may be enabled to give the fullest possible expression to his own personality.

The summer vacation schools of this club is the appellation of the country trips this organization has taken regularly during the summer months of past years. A brief general outline of the summer's work, as achieved by the club, may be of interest to the reader. A list of these

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annual outings are here enumerated and may compare with the undertakings of the famous Sierra Club of this State.

Summer 1898. Stockton to Calaveras Big Trees and return.

Summer 1899. Stockton to Yosemite Valley and return.

Summer 1900. San Francisco to Monterey and return.

Summer 1901. San Francisco via Santa Rosa Valley to Lake County, returning by Napa Valley.

Summer 1902. Stockton to Yosemite Valley and return.

The distance of these trips was generally from 150 to 250 miles, and the average number of miles covered daily by the boys twenty-two. The lads who participated in these outings ranged from the ages of ten to fifteen, and walked every foot of the way, creating quite a reputation on the route by their well-rendered club songs and acts.

Summer 1903. This summer a party of eighteen boys, ranging between the ages of ten and fifteen, under the supervision of Mr. S. S. Peixotto, tramped from San Francisco to Eureka and back to Pt. Arena, a distance of about 540 miles. A double-horse team, driven by the cook, in which was packed the necessary provisions, followed the boys, who walked on ahead. The boys made their requisite twenty miles a day, besides attending manfully to their many arduous camp duties.

In the year 1902 it was the united opinion of those persons interested in these summer outings, that the privilege of a summer's vacation should be extended to a larger proportion of the two hundred club members, the walking trips being limited to from six to twelve boys. The

only feasible alternative at that time was the proposition that the boys support the experiment themselves; therefore, it became necessary that some means be devised whereby those boys, who would otherwise be deprived of this benefit, might have the same opportunity. This question gave rise to an idea that solved the problem. Arrangements were made with a number of fruit ranchers for the employment of the boys during the fruit season. Consequently, these boys went, not as recipients of charity, but in the spirit of independent American lads, determined to fully prove their worth and loyalty to their organization. This they did, as shown, by the kind letters of appreciation received from the orchardists.

The "State of Columbia," the first Junior Republic established in California, was thus successfully organized. The experiment, composed of forty-five boys, was situated in the neighborhood of Vacaville, Yolo County, on a large fruit ranch, where the boys were employed during the day. This enabled them to pay their expenses and earn money besides. One boy made twenty-one dollars clear for two and a half weeks' work, and the average amount per boy was ten dollars, clear of expenses. The total earnings of the camp was four hundred dollars, while the expenses of the month amounted to two hundred and ten dollars. This camp differed from the majority of ordinary outings. Its unique feature was that it combined the pleasures of camp life with the beneficial instruction of a Republic. This camp stood for more than a mere outing, for it had its serious and educational atmosphere. It offered suggestions to the many institutions, that are sending away thousands of boys every year to the country. Let the month in the country mean more than a month of leisure and fun,

while you have the opportunity. Some of the most pleasant and memorable incidents of the Club in after years are the exciting and interesting stories of these vacation camping trips.

The second annual Junior Republic, composed of fifty boys, under the direction of the writer, was successfully established during the past summer, at Glenwood, Santa Cruz County. The idea of the boys supporting, by their own effort, the expenses of the Republic was no doubt original and interesting, but experience had proven, that a month of hard work could not be, in reality, a pleasant outing. Therefore, this year's project was conducted on a different basis. For a month previous, the anticipation of the coming trips caused a sudden spread of infinite delights and beautiful dreams among the boys. Deeply appreciative of my responsibilities, I planned most carefully the details of the camp, endeavoring in every way to improve upon my previous year's experience.

Preparation and a common understanding being essential, the first step therefore was to assemble and organize the youths selected, as the members of the camp-to-be. A number of meetings were held with the boys, weekly and daily, in which all matters and details of the camp were discussed and arranged. Elections were held, laws enacted, instructions in government given, and announcements made. Thus, all the preliminary work of organization was accomplished at the club-house months in advance. By this method an intelligent and definite idea of the trip, its purposes and needs, was grasped by the boys, who were thereby prepared to cope with the various and perplexing conditions and problems of camp life.

A month was devoted to equipping this project with all necessary paraphernalia and material.

The question of equipment and financial support demanded constant activity and thought. Through the kindness and financial assistance of Messrs. Dr. O. N. Orlow and J. P. Chamberlain all anxieties of the future were removed. With sufficient funds at command, it was possible to fully realize all plans, as designed. With a set plan in view, a careful study of the problem found expression in many typewritten sheets of valuable data and matters of policy. Under the different headings, as for instance, list of outfit, of implements, of utensils, of medicines, of food, etc., a vast number of indispensable necessities were remembered and utilized. As, for example:

LIST OF OUTFIT.

1. Kaki hat.
2. Overalls.
3. 2 Black sateen shirts.
4. Shoes (oiled and hobbled nailed).
5. 3 Pairs of socks.
6. 2 Suits of underwear.
7. Knife, fork, spoon, cup, and 3 plates.
8. Toothbrush and comb.
9. 3 Towels and soap.
10. Sleeping bag; 2 or 3 blankets.
11. Writing material.
12. Sewing outfit.
13. Outfit bag.
14. Handkerchiefs.
15. Looking glass.
16. Club sweater.
17. Pocket knife.

LIST OF IMPLEMENTS.

1. Shovels.
2. Hammers.
3. Rakes.
4. Hoes.

5. Axes (large and small).
6. Picks.
7. Wheelbarrow.
8. Nails (all sizes).
9. Hooks.
10. Trowels.
11. Hose.
12. Rope (various sizes).
13. Scythe.
14. Saws.
15. Planes.
16. Squares.
17. Incidentals.

By the aid of these memorandums, we were prepared to meet the ordinary exigencies of the camp. Arrangements were made with wholesale business firms, for purchasing the groceries, tools, tents, and other necessary articles. Thus being organized, the questions of state were being transacted weeks previous, as demonstrated in the records of the Republic.

Strange to remark, the parent to this idea, namely the George Junior Republic was unknown to the younger generation, until an article appeared in a morning paper about the camp at Vacaville, comparing the two experiments. Many people know or have heard of the George Junior Republic, therefore it is unnecessary to go into details. A short review of its aims is, however, of interest. The George Junior Republic, founded by William Reuben George, in the year 1890, was situated near his home at Freeville, in the very heart of the State of New York. It was while working among the poor, that Mr. George was deeply impressed with the absolute need of sending the children of the dirty and squalid streets of the slums, into the healthful and invigorating country. The country has been recognized as a promoter of good

morals and decent living. The fundamental principle upon which the Republic was based is, "Nothing without labor." The most interesting feature is their system of punishment. Courts, judges and police comprise this department. The membership, especially during the summer months, numbers in the hundreds, but many linger throughout the year. It has become a permanent organization. The citizens, generally dependents or waifs of the streets, are finally equipped with a knowledge of things and of a sense of right and wrong.

THE CAMP.

The State of Columbia was situated near Glenwood, Santa Cruz County, in the very heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The ground selected, kindly loaned by Dr. O. N. Orlow, was a large, open piece of land, covered with trees and a thick growth of underbrush. This spot was cleared of its undergrowth and watered by the boys, who worked under an intense summer's heat. No other spot available could be found under the shade of trees, for it was necessary to have an open space, in order to build a real colony with its streets and public buildings. The ground plan was designed by a draughtsman, after being surveyed and laid out in regular municipal form. The general plan was successfully carried out, except where existing circumstances made it necessary to alter matters, as in the case of the constructions of streets.

A unified appearance and dignity was thus afforded the camp. In the center of the village was Peixotto's Plaza, a large level spot, where the camp-fires blazed nightly. On one side was Washington Street, on another Lincoln Boulevard, on the third Grant Street, on the fourth McKinley Avenue, whilst a series of serpentine streets met at this central point. The Capitol

and White House faced the triumphal arch, situated on Dewey's Roadway. Flag poles were erected at different points about the camp, and perhaps an explanation of their significance may be proper at this moment. The flag situated in the center of Peixotto's Plaza was the scene of dress parade ceremonies, when in the early mornings and evenings the stars and stripes were raised and lowered with due respect and ceremony. The flag waving majestically before the Capitol was the national colors of the State, while the other two pennants were placed on prominent points near the camp, commanding a most splendid view of the surrounding country. Facing Peixotto's Plaza, a large, substantial stage was erected against a beautiful green background of a group of small redwood trees. Off towards the left, a large, open-air cookery was constructed. North of this, for about forty paces, four long tables were placed under a large overhanging tree. The play-grounds, swimming-hole, and the industrial factory were all situated outside of the limits of the city proper.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE OF COLUMBIA; THE
CONSTITUTION AND THE PROPOSED ORDER
OF DAILY LIFE.

The constitution was the supreme law of the land, for herein was described the whole system of governmental machinery.

CONSTITUTION OF STATE OF COLUMBIA, GLENWOOD,
CAL.

We, the citizens of the State of Columbia, in order to form an ideal camp, to establish order, to ensure good fellowship, and provide for a common employment, to promote the general welfare and happiness and secure to the citizens the benefits of a summer's outing and the

blessings of a well-regulated, harmonious and peaceful Republic, do ordain and establish this constitution for this State of Columbia of the Columbia Park Boys' Club.

ARTICLE I.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 1. The legislative department of the State of Columbia shall consist of the House of Representatives and the Senate. All legislative powers herein defined shall be vested in these two bodies, which shall compose Congress.

SEC. 2. The House of Representatives shall consist of seven members elected for a term of four weeks. The members shall be elected by a direct vote of the citizens.

The House of Representatives shall choose their speaker and other necessary officers.

No person shall be a representative who is not a member in good standing as a citizen or who has failed to conform to the standards of good membership in the Columbia Park Boys' Club.

The House of Representatives shall meet every Monday of each week at 7 a. m.

SEC. 3. The Senate of the State of Columbia shall consist of four members elected by a direct vote of the citizens. They shall be chosen for the term of four weeks.

The Senate shall elect their necessary officers. The presiding officer shall be the vice-president.

The qualification shall be the same as those of a representative. The Senate shall meet every Friday at seven in the morning.

SEC. 4. The power for amending the Constitution shall be vested in the Congress and the Executive. Both houses and the Executive shall assemble together every Wednesday at 7 a. m.

The laws of procedure governing the meetings shall be Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Law.

Both houses may initiate laws that become legal on the official sanction of the President. The laws must be directed towards the well-being, pleasure, health and interest of the State.

ARTICLE II.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 1. The chief magistrate is the President, elected by the popular vote of the citizens. He shall appoint a cabinet of three, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Industries.

SEC. 2. The President has entire administrative direction of the camp.

SEC. 3. There shall be a Vice-President whose duties shall include presiding over the Senate and such additional duties as the President shall depute to him.

ARTICLE III.

JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT.

This branch of modern government is abolished as there is no need for courts or police for an ideal body politic such as this, where order and loyalty are inherent and requisite qualities of the citizens.

ARTICLE IV.

FINANCES.

A State Bank under the supervision of the Treasurer, appointed by the President, shall be created as a national depository of the State's currency. Taxes shall be levied to meet the necessary expenditures of the camp.

ARTICLE V.

COMMITTEES.

The machinery of government shall be performed by the following committees: Committee on Streets, Committee on Buildings, and Board

of Health, Commissary Department, Indoor Pastimes and Outdoor Pastimes.

The duties of the above-mentioned bodies are as follows:

Committee on Streets—To water, to clean, to construct and to supervise the grounds of the State.

Committee on Buildings—To erect, fix and repair Public Buildings.

Committee on Health—To clean and take care of the State's property.

Committee on Indoor Entertainment—To arrange, prepare, and manage the program and selection of entertainments.

Committee on Outdoor Pastimes—To arrange, to institute and superintend the sports, games and pastimes.

Committee on Commissary—To assist the cook, to arrange the tables, and take care of the supplies, etc.

These committees shall be appointed by a delegate representing the people, in conjunction with the President.

Each citizen is held responsible for the performance of his prescribed duties. Each committee shall elect its own chairman, who shall direct and supervise the work of his special committee.

All committees shall meet weekly.

TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

All citizens are obliged to work. The citizens shall, in the performance of their respective employments, aim to attain perfection.

PLAN OF THE STATE.

The institutions and outline of the Republic shall conform as near as possible to the design of the State architect.

CIVIL LAWS OF COLUMBIA.

Every one signing his name to the Constitution before two citizens, becomes a recognized and full-fledged member of the State.

Duties of a citizen are as follows:

Each citizen shall actively participate in the establishment of a law-making and a law-enforcing community.

Every boy pledges himself to do a certain amount of work, a minimum standard being set, and to render proper services to the commonwealth.

Every citizen shall be a member of at least one committee.

The citizens must be responsible for good behavior and obedience to the laws governing the community. Each is required to promote the peace, happiness and well-being.

Every member shall be a member of the State militia, no standing army being maintained.

A mess-leader shall be at the head of each table with his waiters.

Every boy must wash and clean his own dishes and property. The boys must recognize and obey the authority of a head. Throughout the working hours, citizens should work steadily and honestly. As the success of the camp depends upon the members for mutual assistance and harmonious spirit, every boy should preserve and raise his voice to say,

"Long live the State of Columbia!"

WEEKLY PROGRAM.

Evenings—The several evenings shall be devoted to a special program.

Monday evening shall be amateur night. An entertainment, talks, or stories exclusively by members.

Tuesday evening shall be devoted to games and recreation.

Wednesday evening shall be the meeting of the Columbia Park Boys' Club on summer outing. The President shall preside. Reports of committees, discussions of State affairs, address of President, etc., shall be the regular order of procedure.

Thursday evening shall be given up to indoor games, debates, mock-trials, or any other selection deemed proper.

Friday evening shall be devoted to a rehearsal for the grand weekly entertainment which takes place on Saturday night.

Day Program—The order and routine of the camp shall be as follows:

4:45 a. m. First bugle call.

5:15 a. m. Every boy must be dressed, washed and have prepared his berth.

5:30 a. m. Every boy's place at the table must have its plate, cup, etc. Second bugle signifies "Assemble at table for breakfast."

7:00 a. m. Bugle for meetings.

8:00 a. m. Day's work begins.

12:00 noon. Dinner.

5:00 p. m. Quit work.

5:00 to 6:00 p. m. Bathing.

6:00 p. m. Dress parade.

6:05 p. m. Supper.

7:30 p. m. Assemble in camp.

8:30 p. m. Taps.

9:00 p. m. Lights out.

THE ACTUAL WORKING OF THE GOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY.

The daily program was carried to a successful end, except that the hours were changed, for 4:45 a. m. was found to be rather early for

these healthy and active boys. Only growing boys, who have worked hard, know what deep, sound sleep is like. The daily conduct of the citizens was under the strictest military discipline. The boys were awakened from their peaceful slumbers at 5:30, by the sharp note of the bugle. Dressed, washed, berth arranged, the second bugle assembled the boys on Piexotto's Plaza, when the national emblem—the stars and stripes—was raised with due respect and ceremony. Another bugle blast, the boys were divided in their respective groups, according to the number of their different tables, when under the leadership of a competent instructor, a quarter of an hour was devoted to a lesson in setting-up exercises. In the meantime, the boys having placed their plates on the tables, the waiters proceeded to do justice, by filling them to the very brim. At a given signal, the boys marched to their particular tables, in sections as grouped, and promptly commenced to satisfy their enormous appetites. No one can realize what an enormous appetite a growing boy has, until he or she has attempted to feed fifty. It seems the country air does a great deal towards enlarging the expansion of their stomachs. Most of these boys were liberal expansionists.

Method and order ruled this feature of the camp. When a boy had finished, he handed his plate to the waiter, who goes to the head of his table, where two boys, equipped with ladles and forks, are kept busy filling the many plates to be refilled. Breakfast over, the boys proceeded to wash their own dishes, so by this rule the bugbear of a big washing three times a day was eliminated. Everything in order, after an hour's play, the citizens congregated into groups according to committees, and proceeded to work about camp until 8:30 o'clock, when they were

again assembled to go to their different occupations. At 11:30 a. m. work ceased, and the boys were again called to camp, to listen to the reading of the laws, passed by Congress, or to other necessary announcements. At noon, lunch proceeded under the same routine as in the morning. Between the hours of eleven and two, the time was taken up by the citizens, in playing games, swimming, washing, sewing, etc. Two o'clock found the boys back to their places at the factory, or on the hill, cutting down trees. The camp soon becomes deserted, except for the younger boys, who were occupied with duties about camp.

At five o'clock the bugle to stop work was met with a shout of welcome by the citizens, and soon the camp became a swarming bee-hive of boys, playing, talking and laughing. Some proceeded to wash, others to mend their clothes, some gathered around the bulletin board to read the daily instructions, while a few were occupied with their camp duties. A blast of the bugles and the roll of the drums assembled the citizens together again for dress parade, when the duty of hauling down the flag took place. Before this ceremony, a quarter of an hour was given up to drill.

Dinner over, the citizens, if free from camp duties, were allowed to take a walk, or do as they pleased, until the bugle announced the commencement of the evening's performance. This lasted until, after a rousing club yell, the boys dispersed to their tents. The dear old Columbia Park yell—C-O-L-U-M-B-I-A, Hip Hip Hooray—re-echoed among the distant mountains. As the last sweet note of the trumpet flowed away into the dark silence of the night, the many lights were extinguished, and a deep stillness ensued. Sunday was the day of rest and

leisure. Occasionally, afternoons were spent in cross-country walks and sham battles. The boys loved to gather around the camp-fire in the long evenings and listen to thrilling tales of hair-breadth escapes, ghost stories, exploits of boyish adventures, and the blood-thirsty tales of Indian fights. Round games were then played until taps signified the bed hour.

Some of the fun of club life was transferred to the camp. On Monday night the boys donned costumes and masks brought from the club's wardrobe, and had impromptu theatricals. Wednesday evening, meetings were conducted under strict parliamentary rules. The interest and seriousness of the members were manifested in the heated discussions and enthusiastic speeches that followed. One time is especially remembered when, after a heated debate it was finally decided by a rising vote, that every boy should be allowed to spend thirty-five cents on fire crackers. This was during the first of July. Saturday evening entertainments were appreciated by the audience, that came in buggies and wagons from miles around, to witness these weekly performances. At these picturesque out-of-door shows, many talented and well-trained boys furnished the numbers of the program, which consisted of recitations, musical selections, solo and choral numbers, as well as short original club "plays." Admission fee was strictly refused many times. The people were well pleased, and these theatricals became the talk of the country. A large stage equipped with necessary paraphernalia was erected for this purpose. Seats were placed in the center of the large plaza situated in the middle of the camp, where the big camp-fires burned brightly every night.

The system of committees worked like a

charm, the citizens having manfully performed their camp duties like brave young soldiers. With pluck and endurance, these lads overcame all obstacles, and established a government of their own. They built streets, fences, rustic seats, tables, benches, swimming-hole, etc., generally from the trees felled by their own axes. It seemed at times, as if the uppermost thought with the boys was all work and no pleasure, as shown in the records of the meeting of the Commissary Committee. The following extract is from a meeting of above committee:

“The motion made and seconded in the former meeting, ‘That the citizen of the Commissary should not work during play-time,’ was brought before the House of Representatives and was lost.”

A specimen of committee work is seen in the minutes of the meetings of the following committees:

Building Committee—A motion was made and seconded to send a communication to Health Committee, to find a place suitable for new lavatories. It was carried.”

Out-Door Committee—“Committeeman Jescke was instructed to get up a tournament between the different tents and between the Optimus and Maximus parties.”

Street Committee—“Chairman Jorss arranged the boys as to their various duties. Tennebaum and Vetter to sprinkle all of the camp, including the plaza and steps. Buck and Davis to clean streets. Glynn, Merritt, Tresch and Bob to build and construct roads.”

Some of the laws enacted by the different Houses of Congress:

House of Representatives—“Leader of Physical Culture be elected by popular vote.”

“Health Committee clean tents every day.”

“Road to tables be watered before meals.”

By Senate—“No one to go swimming twice a day without permission of President Rogers.”

“Building Committee build stairs leading from arch.”

“Citizens borrowing State Property should return it in their own name, or be prohibited from using same.”

The general rules and papers were printed at the club-house, and the new enactments arising out of the necessities of the Republic were posted in the bulletin-board. During the day every rule and law was strictly observed, as far as permitted by circumstances. The life of the citizen was under the strictest discipline, the laws being transacted with exact precision and despatch.

Isolated from human life, because of its separation from town and people, it became a government, with its citizens, quietly living together, transacting their affairs of State, which thereby assumed the true dignity and tone of a law-making and law-enforcing community. The scene in front of the Capitol was a sight long to be remembered. The bearing of congressmen and statesmen was observed in the boys when they set about the management of some important affair. An earnest perseverance and loyalty was shown by the citizens, in the conduct of their duties. There was no grumbling about it, even though in the division of responsibilities some boys were given more work than others to do. Amusement and pleasure thrived. Country walks, sham battles, tournaments, round games, baseball, etc., were all entered into with an earnest and cheerful spirit, pervading the camp life with joy and happiness.

One of the incidents of camp life was the celebration of Fourth of July. The following is

an extract from the Secretary of State's diary in reference to this affair:

"To Santa Cruz on wagons; drilled in morning in parade, went in swimming in surf; in afternoon took part in 'horrible's' parade; in afternoon several boys went in races at ball grounds and won prizes; returned home at about 12:30 p. m."

The following citation also illustrates another incident of life within the Republic.

"Arch completed, road to arch also finished, stage built, boys in bead work commenced today, swimming, flag near capitol erected, morning and evening nice, noon rather hot. All are having lots of fun."

These boys did not go as a lawless, rough group, bent upon having a good time, but instead, as a trained and earnest body of boys, to form a law-abiding community. In their parliamentary bodies, in their elections or daily duties, these susceptible and plastic youths were grasping the first seeds of organization and self-government. They felt the love of independence and freedom that carries with it the burdens and responsibilities of citizenship. These boys went trained and equipped, for they understood the value of law and order; they knew how to be obedient to established authority. They were learned in parliamentary usages, so they were promising material. This experiment was not a matter of playing or practicing the part, but instead that of living the life for a month of a true citizen.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS.

The camp food was a simple diet, staple, wholesome, and good, a few luxuries or dainties being part of the menu. The foods were bought in large quantities, this being the major expense

of the camp. The general daily menu, with some variations, was as follows:

Monday.

B.—Mush; Toast; Coffee.

L.—Beans; Corn-Bread; Coffee.

D.—Pudding; Bread; Fruit; Tea.

Tuesday.

B.—Pancakes; Coffee.

L.—Stew; Crackers; Coffee.

D.—Maccaroni; Fruit; Bread; Tea.

Wednesday.

B.—Mush; Crackers; Coffee.

L.—Beans; Vegetables; Tea.

D.—Codfish; Cake; Ice-Cream.

Thursday.

B.—Rice; Bread; Coffee.

L.—Maccaroni; Potatoes; Coffee.

D.—Oysters; Fruit; Tea.

Friday.

B.—Pancakes; Chocolate.

L.—Salmon; Vegetables; Tea.

D.—Maccaroni; Cake; Coffee.

Saturday.

B.—Mush; Coffee; Bread.

L.—Beans; Bread; Tea.

D.—Pudding; Fruit; Coffee.

Sunday.

B.—Pancakes; Chocolate.

L.—Meat; Vegetables; Mixed Cakes; Ice-Cream.

D.—Oysters; Crackers; Tea.

An ideal open-air kitchen was hailed with delight on its completion. An excellent cooking oven, perfectly suitable for the purposes, was constructed, besides all the essential shelves, partitions, tables, etc., helpful to the hired cook.

The cook, with the aid of the Commissary Committee managed very well to the satisfaction of the citizens. The main thought was, a few staple foods, but plenty of them. The method of serving was conducted with order. Each table had a waiter, whose duty was to take a plate offered to him, to the front of the tables, where two boys were dishing out the food from large, steaming vessels. As each table finished, the citizens were dismissed. This avoided the kicking up of the dust and confusion in the rush to wash dishes. The waiters, with the President, ate after the others.

The boys' outfit was plain, but comfortable, consisting of only the absolute necessities, as seen in the list on previous pages. The state uniform consisted of a brown kaki hat, a black sateen shirt, brown overalls and leggings. This national dress created within the citizens a civic pride, giving one an impression of order and organization to the Republic.

The boys were housed in large, ample tents, having been divided into groups of six, under the leadership of a tent-master, who was held responsible for the behavior and cleanliness of his respective tent. A spirited competition for the best tent—the points being arrangement, behavior, etc.—fostered a friendly rivalry among the boys, which resulted in a general care and neatness of the different tents. These were equally divided on each side of the large plaza, into the Optimus and Maximus parties. We could not afford to have a mix-up in politics, as this was an ideal Republic, so, instead of Republican and Democrat being the titles of the political parties, the names Optimus and Maximus were substituted. The tents were cleaned and aired daily, this being part of the Health Committee's duties. A hospital tent, under the

supervision of the State Doctor, an older boy, was provided with complete medicinal supplies for ordinary indispositions. Homesickness and poison-oak were the only ailments. A visitor's tent, furnished with two beds and necessary furniture, was in frequent use from visiting parents, who stayed over night. Mothers were anxious to understand the secret of managing fifty boys, especially how her son John ever happened to wash his own face or mend his clothes. It was a victory for the boys, for it proved that they could do things, if rightly directed and encouraged. Each tent had two lanterns for lighting facilities.

The boys were occupied from the hours of 8:30 a. m. to 11 a. m. and from 2 p. m. to 4:30 p. m., in making Indian bead belts and rustic flower baskets, while another group was courageously clearing the side of a large hill of its trees and undergrowth. The industrial activities were highly successful. An ideal factory was constructed, with all the necessary benches and appurtenances. The sale of the belts and baskets also assisted to defray the expenses of the camp. At the present moment, there exists a rage for Indian bead belts everywhere. It is the fashion in Europe, while in this country it has become a fad. The prices for an ordinary bead belt ranges from two to four dollars apiece. The boys managed to produce about one hundred belts.

The results of this work was most gratifying, as shown in the beautiful, well-made belts. The price of the belt depends, to a large extent upon its design and artistic coloring. The aesthetic impression derived from the handling of the many beautiful colored belts, inculcated in the citizens an artistic taste for the beautiful. They soon learned to discriminate between the real

and superficial colors. It is still a question whether or not this occupation was suitable work for the boys. In the first place, it is girl's work, pure and simple. In the second place, the occasion was not work, but a summer's vacation, with the problem of establishing a Republic, which, in itself, is worthy of constant thought and energy. Again, the boys worked under many trying conditions, for the work demands a skilled person with patience. This latter quality is seldom found in boys. Again, the work is slow and tedious, exacting extreme accuracy and thought. The intense heat of the sun, the country, as an inappropriate place for this fine art, and the character of the work, were drawbacks, that the boys surmounted. Of course; there is the other side. These industrial energies gave a tone of permanency and realness to the whole experiment. It kept the boys interested, and occupied for a few hours every day. In a way the boys, by this means, were self-supporting. They learned many good habits, such as neatness, patience, accuracy, endurance, etc. It had, no doubt, its educational value as a manual training occupation. And lastly, this was not a trip founded to have a good time and nothing to do, but instead its cardinal principles were labor first and pleasure afterwards. Its object was to create something real. It seems at times as if the boys forgot how to play in their intense desire of creating a real Republic, not in name only, but in fact.

The citizens were all members of the Columbia Park Boys' Club, recruited from the immediate neighborhood of that organization. They were fifty in number, ranging between the ages of ten and eighteen. All attended the public schools. Their power of endurance was demonstrated in the work accomplished; their en-

ergy was shown in the creation of the State of Columbia; their obedience is manifested in their laws and conduct; the prevailing spirit of good-fellowship was expressed in the unity and strength of the camp. This Junior Republic of which I write, was neither a farce, a mere burlesque of the real; nor was it a mere fancy or idea of the mind, but a successful reality proven by a set of determined and loyal boys, who went to establish a precedent. A month of self-government by young, intelligent, active, American boys, depending upon their own ability and initiative, holds within lessons and pleasures—a storehouse of benefits. These boys successfully founded a Republic, controlled and regulated their immature community with the same spirit and intelligence as is manifested in larger governments. They built a colony with streets and public buildings, elected their officers, legislated and enforced laws; in short, they instituted a government “of the people, for the people, and by the people.”

Building upon the desire to have an instructive and unique camp, organized and systematized, the idea gave rise to the thought, which was finally realized in the formation of both these experiments. It is impossible to depict the picturesqueness and interest of the camp life of these boys, or to tell of their thoughts and actions, or the many groups that gathered together to play or talk. It would be hopeless to attempt to relate the many happenings and details of this project. Let this brief narrative suffice.

Many good seeds were sown during these months of sunshine by these boys, browned and hardened by earnest toil and rational pleasure. Here was taught the valuable precept of universal brotherhood—I am my brother's keeper—the stronghold behind all the relationships and

friendships of humanity. The duty of the individual towards the welfare and common interest of the mass was deeply impressed upon every citizen. They realized the independence of human souls in this great game of life. Responsibility, co-operation, and reciprocal relationship in common effort every citizen deeply felt. The value of home and the love of the parent was learned. In learning to take care of themselves, and how much depended upon others for mutual assistance, the character of their manhood was touched. They learned the independent spirit coming from self-dependence. They learned to be loyal to the rules and laws of the State. The whole trip was a great lesson in life for every boy, for he saw a large world, and the true relation he held towards it and towards his fellow-boys as brothers. Truer and better citizens is bound to be the result, if the good work is kept in progress.

The closing of school at vacation time means to many boys simply to be put to work or idle away their time on the dirty and crowded streets. The street and this idleness are the root of much evil. A summer's vacation in the country is the root of much good. At Glenwood those boys were taught the benefits of self-control and self-reliance, of simplicity and modesty in life. In mind they developed larger conceptions of life, while in body they gained in health and vigor. Within the past few years the general movement throughout the country towards the establishment of summer vacation schools has greatly expanded in scope and number. The valuable and beneficial results of properly organized and directed juvenile summer camps have been recently recognized by thinking men and women. They are to be considered in the future as a training school for the young. It can be con-

sidered as a continuation of the school during the summer months. Such is the case with many schools in this country. Realizing the many possibilities of summer camps the question naturally arises, Why not place these trips above the mediocrity of mere outings and elevate them to a standard that will furnish a liberal development of the boy. A step in this direction may be found in these Junior Republic outings, which not only afford all the pleasures and pastimes of a vacation, but also lay stress upon the education of the young during those impressionable years. During the school months of vacation and leisure the youth must be watched. The Columbia Park Boys' Club has opened the way. Let others follow.

OBSERVATIONS OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

Herein is recorded a few personal suggestions for those persons desirous of establishing such a summer's outing. The following is a general outline of a few casual conclusions necessary to a correct method in the formation of a camp. This short brief should not be taken as purely sound gospel, or as the infallible advice of the writer, for he fears contradiction; but, instead, it should be considered the result of simply his personal experiences. They may differ from many others.

The primary step necessary in the organization of a camp is to determine upon its character, that is, whether or not it is to be a permanent camp, a walking outing, or a general excursion over the country. Having ascertained its character, the question of locality consequently engages attention next; that is, whether or not the vacation in consideration is to be spent by the sea, on the plains, or in the mountains. At this time one must decide if the time is going to be devoted to hunting, fishing, recreation, or what not. Having settled upon the particulars of the trip in question, its aims and functions, it becomes essential to select the special locality of our summer's outing. This is most important. The location of a camp must be chosen with deep consideration, for a great many failures have resulted from the selection of an uninteresting and ill-adapted spot. The immediate country should be attractive and suitable to the tone of the trip in mind.

In deciding upon the question of a site for the camp, many necessary points must be studied. We must ascertain the climatic conditions of the vicinity, the nature of the surrounding country, the water and fuel supply, location of towns and

the possibilities of food supply. All these things must be known beforehand to the person in charge. A close scrutiny and knowledge of the situation of the camp will not only prepare one to cope with all the emergencies of camp life, but will also familiarize him with the actual conditions to be met. With a set ideal in mind, the character and situation having been selected, it then becomes necessary to decide upon the number and character of the members who are to compose the experiment. The next proposition to be considered is, whether or not it is to be a camp of girls or boys, men or women, or both sexes together. Also, if it is to be inaugurated for the dependent or the self-supporting person, for provisions and arrangements must be made accordingly. The basis of support is another serious problem of consideration. Sufficient financial aid is absolutely essential to the real success of any such enterprise.

It is advisable, especially with the young, to be careful in your selection of the members to compose the camp in embryo. Always make it a point to rely upon a few trusty and able assistants among the boys or girls, whatever the case may be. The assistance from them is incalculable, for they can do much of the detail work. Impose your trust in them and they will faithfully perform their duties. Give them responsibilities and they will prove their worth. Impress upon them the fact that the success of the experiment depends upon the whole group, and not any single individual. Make them realize that the camp is theirs, not yours. They must be the creators, not you. The establishment of the camp is the product of combined efforts, not the result of a personal wish.

Preparation now becomes a vital necessity. Meetings must be held in which all matters must

be discussed and details arranged. Having thus far come to a common understanding of the question, and having the situation well in hand, the subject of equipment necessarily follows. This feature of the camp is most important, and should receive the most careful study. Particular emphasis, let it be repeated, should be devoted to this side of the experiment. The equipment must be appropriate, sufficient, and adapted for the occasion. The lack of sufficient supplies in way of foodstuffs and accessories in the way of implements, will greatly hinder the successful realization of the project. Arrangements settled in regard to the supplies, transportation, equipment, etc., the start is then made, the hour being chosen as to have the party arrive in camp during the day, so that preparations for the evening are possible. Better still would be the sending of a squad to precede the rest, by a few days, in order to lay out an available plan for the camp, and get everything in readiness.

The question of administration now comes under discussion. No definite or rigid rule can be laid down for the management of a camp. That question we must decide for ourselves, as it depends upon the character of the individual and the circumstances under which he is laboring to fully comprehend the method of control. The leader must be determined to carry out the idea set in view, yet he must be flexible enough to alter his opinions when necessity demands it. He must have a thorough understanding of the members of the camp and a deep knowledge of the purposes of the latter. His attitude must always be congenial and obliging. Beyond doubt, a summer's vacation discloses the different temperament and traits of character of the individual. We cannot hide ourselves. Camp life,

pure and simple, is rough and perplexing at times. During those moments of discouragement and failure, a happy and sweet disposition is rare.

Everything depends upon a good commencement. Half the victory is won with a correct start. In the camp of which I have written, it became necessary to work toward a well-planned idea. As regards the management of the camp, in reality, a great deal depends upon the character of the person in charge, and the conditions of affairs existing. One must be earnest and sincere in his work,—cool, considerate, just, kind, and sympathetic, yet firm and courageous. As in all things, in the final end the *man* must be there to decide all questions.

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